

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN, TH

SUBJECT: P.L. 480 RICE PROGRAM IN INDIA

REF: BANGKOK 9833

1. THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A SIMILAR NOTE FROM THE THAI EMBASSY HERE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 9. WE HAVE PREPARED A RESPONSE AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE THE SECRETARY OF STATE PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF THAILAND AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE RECEIPT OF HIS NOTE NO. 479/2519, DATED APRIL 8, 1976, REQUESTING THAT THE PROPOSED PL 480 SALE OF RICE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON A 60,000 TON RICE TRANS-
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ACTION ARE COMPLETED.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE APPRECIATES THE CONCERN OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT THAT THE PROPOSED PL 480 SALE TO INDIA, FOR WHICH NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN IN EARLY APRIL, NOT INTERFERE WITH ITS INTENTION TO SELL RICE COMMERCIALLY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. TO PROTECT NORMAL COMMERCIAL SALES A USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENT

(UMR) OF 100,000 TONS OF RICE HAS BEEN PROPOSED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFER OF PL 480 RICE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. THE UMR IS THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED MEANS TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE AND IS NORMALLY BASED ON THE AVERAGE OF COMMERCIAL IMPORTS DURING THE MOST RECENT FIVE YEAR PERIOD.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE REGRETS TO INFORM THE AMBASSADOR OF THAILAND THAT, SHOULD THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RESULT IN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE RICE UNDER PL 480, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEDE TO THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST THAT THE ACTUAL SALE BE DEFERRED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT MAY BE ABLE TO COMPLETE ITS PENDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. UNQUOTE.

3. WE RECOMMEND YOU DRAW ON THE FOREGOING IN DRAFTING YOUR RESPONSE TO THE THAI NOTE DELIVERED IN BANGKOK.

4. FYI: INDIANS HAVE ACCEPTED OFFER OF 400,000 TONS WHEAT, 100,000 TONS RICE. TALKS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF AGREEMENT ARE CONTINUING THIS WEEK. END FYI. ROBINSON

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